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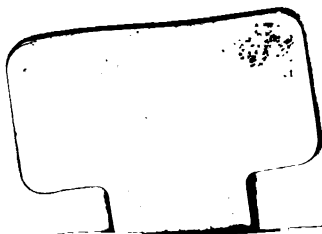
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The image shows the front cover of a book. The main part of the cover is decorated with a traditional marbled paper pattern. This pattern consists of large, irregular, cell-like shapes in shades of blue and grey, each filled with a fine, speckled texture. These shapes are separated by thin, flowing lines of red and yellow. The overall effect is a complex, organic, and colorful design. On the left side of the image, there is a vertical strip of dark brown material, which appears to be the spine of the book. At the bottom of this spine, there is a small, rectangular label of the same dark brown material. On this label, the text 'I38. d.' is printed in a gold-colored serif font, and below it, the number '385.' is also printed in the same gold-colored serif font.

I38. d.
385.



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AN OCTAVE OF CATHOLIC PRAYERS

FOR THE EVENTFUL YEAR

1851.

By a Protestant Catholic.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem : [England] they shall prosper that love thee.”—PSALM CXXII. 6.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways ; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”—2 CHRON. VII. 14.

EDITED BY THE REV. EDWARD PHILLIPS,
INCUMBENT OF EAST TYTHERLY, HANTS.



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AN OCTAVE OF PRAYERS,

FOR THE MORNINGS AND EVENINGS OF EIGHT DAYS.

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PREFACE.

THE following short forms are not intended to supersede any that are already in print ; but are drawn up for the use of those persons who feel that the present times call for more particular notice of the errors of Popery and its imitation, than is to be found in the manuals in common use. The writer would suggest that one or more might well be added to the customary prayer.

The object has been to express in simple language, the thankfulness that ought to be felt by all British Protestants for their peculiar blessings, civil and religious, so long and plentifully rained down upon our land—the humility and repentance that become us, when we consider how little

we have improved our national advantages—and the heartfelt petition that ought to arise from all our fellow-countrymen, that notwithstanding our lukewarmness and backsliding, our gracious Master would condescend still to preserve us as His peculiar people, and continue and increase among us that righteousness which has so exalted our nation—that upon all her glory there may be a defence.

It is felt that there are defects in these pages, as indeed there must be in all things human. But it is hoped that these defects are only in the dress and not in the matter. True prayer depends not upon elegance of diction or fluency of utterance, but is most frequently found when such externals are not deemed important. If the writer has succeeded in giving expression to correct and scriptural sentiments, he is little anxious respecting occasional inaccuracies in style, and confidently relies on the kind indulgence of those who may be disposed to avail themselves of these petitions, although not entirely free from such blemishes.

True worship is essentially spiritual ; but man consisting of body and soul, needs forms and

ordinances to embody his worship ; that he may be enabled to unite with his fellow-Christians in their social and public devotions. We see in the Book of Psalms, the expression of the prayers and praises of the Old Testament Church ; and our fathers have handed down to us many of the forms of the early Christians, which are incorporated in our Liturgy, and are generally considered as the best of uninspired compositions.

It only remains to urge all to make the sentiments conveyed in these pages their own, in such a manner as not to be tied to the mode in which they are expressed ; and especially to remember that the Lord looketh not to the words of the lips, but to the desire of the heart, as a Christian bard beautifully sings ;—

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed ;
The motion of a hidden fire,
That trembles in the breast.

N.B.—*Many of the prayers in our admirable Liturgy are remarkably apposite for the present state of affairs—both as respects Popery and the still worse evil that is so insidiously preying upon the vitals of our beloved Church.*

A Prayer for the High Court of Parliament,

TO BE READ DURING THEIR SESSION.

Most gracious God, we humbly beseech thee, as for this Kingdom in general, so especially for the High Court of Parliament, under our most religious and gracious Queen at this time assembled : That thou wouldest be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations to the advancement of thy glory, the good of thy Church, the safety, honour, and welfare of our Sovereign, and her Dominions ; that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavours, upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations. These and all other necessities, for them, for us, and thy whole Church, we humbly beg in the Name and Mediation of Jesus Christ our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PRAYERS.

I.

Sunday Morning.

O THOU who didst give us thy Sabbaths to be a sign, that we might know that thou art the Lord our God, we entreat thee never to remove this sign from our land.

There are some who honour what are called Saints' days, as much, and sometimes more, than thy holy Sabbaths : but we find it written in thy word, that thou, Lord, didst appoint one day in seven to be kept holy, and didst command that on the other six days man should labour. Grant that we may consider it not only our duty, but our inestimable privilege, to remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy.

May thy Holy Spirit accompany us to thy house this day, that we may worship thee aright,

and find it good to sing praises unto our God ; for it is pleasant, and praise is comely.

There will we offer our prayers unto thy divine majesty, not only for ourselves, but for others also ; for our country and for our rulers.

Strengthen the hands of our gracious Sovereign, Queen Victoria, and all that are put in authority under her, with judgment and justice to control all such workers of iniquity as turn religion into rebellion, and faith into faction : that they may never prevail against us, or triumph in the ruin of thy Church among us : but that our gracious Sovereign and her realms being preserved in thy true religion, and by thy merciful goodness protected in the same, we may all duly serve thee and give thee thanks in thy holy congregation.

Let the consideration of thy repeated goodness, O Lord, work in us true repentance, that iniquity may not be our ruin. And increase in us more and more a lively faith and love, stedfast in all holy obedience, that thou mayest still continue thy favour, with the light of thy gospel, to us and our posterity for evermore.

II.

Sunday Evening.

WE give thee hearty thanks, merciful Lord, for delivering us from the bondage of Rome. Grant, we beseech thee, that we may always be preserved in our present happy freedom : and may we never abuse that freedom.

Especially we pray thee to keep us from the folly and sin of rejecting the oracles of God, and preferring the dictates of unsanctified reason. May we avoid profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science, falsely so called, which some professing have erred concerning the faith.

Again have we been permitted to worship thee in the great congregation. We praise thee that our public services are in a language that can be understood by all our fellow-countrymen ; and that we have been preserved from the error of those who offer thee the vain service of words, which they understand not. We have been taught to pray and to sing with the spirit, and with the understanding also.

We thank thee especially, O Lord, that thy

word forms so large a portion of our services, and that those who minister about holy things, are not considered as rightly performing their duty, if they preach not the gospel.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to send forth thy Holy Spirit, to teach both ministers and people ; that so we may all grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ, being rooted and grounded in love.

And do thou, O Lord, increase the number of thy faithful ministers at home and abroad, that thy truth may have free course and be glorified, in the conversion of many sinners unto thee.

We pray thee to look down in mercy upon that part of our Sovereign's dominions, in which Popery has so long been the plague-spot. We thank thee, for putting into the hearts of many of thy servants, a sincere sympathy for the poor Irish, and for wonderfully blessing the efforts that have been made for their temporal and spiritual benefit. Apostles may plant the good seed, and water it with their tears ; but thou, Lord, alone, canst give the increase.

III.

GOD be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Thou hadst a delight in our fathers, to love them, and chose their seed after them, even above all people, as it is this day.

In mercy to our land, thou, Lord, didst put into the hearts of the martyrs and reformers, the love of thy word; and, by thy Holy Spirit, didst enlighten their minds, enabling them to perceive wherein that which once was a pure church in Rome, had become apostate and antichristian, perverting the faith once delivered unto the saints, and following cunningly-devised fables, and the traditions of men. We praise thee for causing the Church of England to be reformed, holding fast the form of sound words, but rejecting the errors of Popery; the stubble which foolish men had built upon the only sure foundation which thou thyself hast laid.

We give thee thanks for blessing our nation with the pure light of the gospel, and making

her a praise in all the earth ; giving our armies victory, whensoever they were called upon to protect the cause of humanity, and so opening the door for the spread of thy holy word, and the proclamation of the truth as it is in Jesus.

But, Lord, we have not rendered unto thee according to the benefit done unto us. We have backslidden from thee : and therefore thou hast permitted the enemy to exalt himself against us. O Lord, hear ; O Lord, forgive ; O Lord, hearken and do ; defer not, for thine own sake, O God : for thy people are called by thy name. O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years : in wrath remember mercy. Help us, O God, for the glory of thy name.

We beseech thee to hear us, O Lord, in behalf of our Queen. May she be fully sensible of her responsibilities, and of her utter inability to do anything in her own strength. Make her like unto Hezekiah, who in his time of need, sought to thee for help, and was wonderfully preserved. May she rule in the strength of the Most High, and, after this life, enter into the joy of her Lord.

IV.

WE give thee thanks, heavenly Father, for thy distinguishing mercy to our native land. When the countries professing the Christian faith, were covered with the darkness of Romish error and superstition, thou didst cause the day-spring from on high, to arise upon England, and the true light of the gospel to shine upon our fathers.

Thou didst give them wisdom, wherewith to translate thy holy word into our native tongue, and, at the same time didst cause the art of printing to be invented, by which the word of life is placed within the reach of every one. Truly, the people that walked in darkness, have seen a great light! And as the light of the natural sun rejoiceth the eyes, and maketh all things living to grow, even so hath the Sun of Righteousness spread over the length and breadth of our land, the blessings of spiritual life and joy.

We further praise thee, that England hath not only received this inestimable benefit, but hath also been the means, in thy hands, of dispelling the darkness of other countries. We desire not

to boast, for thou, O Lord, knowest that we are unprofitable servants; we have but done that which it was our duty to do: yet, amidst much backsliding, over which we must mourn, we may, and do rejoice, that thou hast not left us without manifest tokens of thy favour. Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us; but unto thy name be the glory.

And now, O Lord, we beseech thee, forsake not the work of thine own hands. Arise, O God, plead thine own cause, and preserve us from the craft and power of Antichrist. Now that the enemy is coming in like a flood, may the Spirit of the Lord lift up a standard against him. Stir up thy strength, and come and help us; for vain is the help of man.

O that England may always be as the garden of the Lord! The enemy hath sown tares among the wheat, and we have to lament, that many who have undertaken the work of the vineyard have proved unfaithful. We trust that thou, the Great Husbandman, wilt overrule this evil for good, by causing men to see the peril of departing from the simplicity of the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

V.

ENABLE us, O Lord, to fight the good fight of faith, putting on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Let us never trust in our own strength, but in the Captain of our salvation. When we see the learned and the noble going astray, and giving heed to the delusions of Satan, may we take heed, lest we fall.

We thank thee, O God, that we have been taught that thou alone canst forgive sin, and that there is only one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, through whom we may come boldly unto the throne of grace, and obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Thou hast laid help upon One that is mighty to save, and therefore will we not look to any other as our mediator.

We desire to think of the heavenly host as thy ministers, doing thy pleasure respecting us, either in executing thy wrath on thine enemies, or as ministering to the heirs of salvation.

We also take pleasure in remembering the

mother of our Lord, as highly favoured and blessed among women. But as even she, who found favour with thee, and was honoured by becoming thy mother in the flesh, called thee her God and Saviour, keep us, we pray thee; from giving to her, or to any other creature, that honour which is due to thee alone.

We would also bless thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace, so to follow their good example, that, with them, we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Keep us also, we beseech thee, from attaching merit to any works of man. Thou hast declared of all Adam's sinful race, that there is none that doeth good, no, not one; but that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. May we believe, that it is only by grace that we are saved, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Thanks be unto thee for thine unspeakable gift.

VI.

Bow down thine ear, O Lord, and hear us. From all evil and mischief, from sin, from the crafts and assaults of the devil ; from all sedition, privy conspiracy and rebellion ; from all false doctrine, heresy, and schism ; good Lord, deliver us.

We beseech thee to bring into the way of truth, all such as have erred and are deceived ; and to strengthen such as do stand, and to comfort and help the weak-hearted.

We read, O Lord, in thy word, what thy servant David says ; “ I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.” May we feel that we have the same duty to perform in confessing our sins, and the same privilege of confessing them to thee, without the intervention of any man. And though, O Lord, we would not forget that we are instructed by thine Apostle, to confess our faults one to another ; yet would we always remember that we are to look to thee alone to absolve us, for his sake who

ued for our sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.

We would esteem those who are over us in the Lord very highly in love for their works' sake ; but permit us not to yield undue submission to any man.

If any lord it over God's heritage, and bring in damnable heresies, may we have grace to withstand them, as subverting the faith.

O Lord, make us all faithful to the Sovereign whom thou hast placed over us. If a foreign prince, who blasphemously assumes to be thy vicerent upon earth, asserts his right to govern any of our fellow-countrymen, may we zealously uphold the right of our Queen, as the power thou hast ordained to rule over us, and to whom we are required by thee to submit, as supreme.

It is declared in thy word, that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin ; for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. O let us not presume to detract from the merit of his salvation, by trusting to human merit, to prayers of priests, or to human sufferings, either in this world or in a future state ; but may we look alone to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

VII.

O THOU, who art the great head of thy Church, we pray thee to keep us steadfast in the faith. Thou art the rock upon which the Church is built, against which the gates of hell shall never prevail.

Preserve us, we beseech thee, from misinterpreting thy words, by calling thine Apostle Peter the rock.

In the writings of thine inspired Apostles, we find that Peter was rebuked by thee, for his hasty and unstable conduct, and also by a fellow Apostle for his insincerity : and Peter himself, instead of claiming the pre-eminence, exhorts his brethren to come to thee, O Lord, as unto a living stone, or rock, upon which, and not upon himself, thy true people should be built up, a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices to God, by Christ Jesus.

We thank thee, O Lord, for these clear intimations of the truth, and pray thee to impress it deeply on our hearts and minds, by the power of thy Holy Spirit.

We pray, not only that thou wouldest keep us from Romish error, but also from foolishly setting up reason as superior to faith, and refusing to believe what we cannot understand. May we be stablished in the faith, and beware lest any man spoil us through philosophy and vain deceit.

Thou hast raised up many eloquent men, mighty in the scriptures, and not ignorant of Satan's devices, to stir up the slumbering Protestantism of the people. As Lord, thou dost condescend to employ human instrumentality, we desire to thank thee for such zealous champions of the truth. But thou hast warned us not to put confidence in man, not even in princes, and the desertion of some who were thought to be able defenders of the faith once delivered to the saints, has taught us the fallibility of all men. We therefore pray thee, to keep those stedfast who are now fighting on the Lord's side, lest they fall after the same example of unbelief, and may they and we remember that all our sufficiency is of thee.

VIII.

LORD, grant, that whilst we resist the unscriptural usurpations of Popery we may love the souls of its slaves. When we praise thee for our civil and religious freedom, may we pray that they may be made partakers of the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.

When we hear of the God-dishonouring doctrine of indulgences, may we rejoice that we have not so learned Christ; but have been taught by him to put off the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds; and to put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

The priests of Rome pretend to give their people absolution for any sin, and sell indulgences for money. But thou Lord, sayest, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk, without money and without price."

Thus they encourage sin, because they know

that by this craft they have their wealth. But in thy word, O Lord, it is said, "The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes : the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever."

We feel, O God, that we cannot thank thee as we ought, for showing us this difference between thy true religion and the false system of Popery. Grant, we beseech thee, that we may not consider our greater knowledge sufficient without a proportionate increase of faith and love. By the operation of thy Holy Spirit on our hearts, may we be enabled to bring forth the fruits of a holy life, to the praise of thee our God.

May we be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh us a reason of the hope that is in us, with meekness and fear ; and if at any time, we are reproached with our religion, as being a novel invention, may we be able to show its divine origin, and stedfastly determine to believe no doctrine which is inconsistent with thy holy word.

IX.

WE come to thee, O Lord, with humble supplications for our Queen and country, and for the Church established in our land.

Have mercy on our Sovereign, and keep her faithful to her Coronation Oath, not merely to its letter, but especially to its spirit. May she show that she has set God always before her, and be thou on her right hand, that she may not fall.

Especially do we entreat thee to strengthen her now, that her authority and the welfare of her subjects are attacked by our constant enemy, the Pope. May she, under thee, be the defender of the faith—that faith, without which, it is impossible to please thee.

Let thy mercy rest also upon her family. May they be trained up in the way in which they should go, relying on thy gracious promise, that when they are old they shall not depart from it.

Bless, O God, all who bear office under the Queen, as our rulers. May great grace be upon them all, that they, ruling in the fear of God, may have a right judgment in all things, and make

such laws only as shall be to thy glory and the well-being of thy people.

For our Church we ask great things, even that thou wouldest vouchsafe to show thyself in her midst by the mighty operation of the Holy Spirit. Speak, Lord, the gracious word, Awake, O north wind, and come, thou south ; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow forth. Then shalt thou take pleasure in the fruits thereof.

We thank thee, O Lord, that our national Church is so scriptural, and that so many of her ministering servants are faithful. But we mourn before thee on account of some who have departed from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits. We pray thee for their conversion, or that thou wouldest enable our rulers to drive away those wolves in sheep's clothing, who injure the lambs of thy flock.

We pray also for the rising generation. Lord, the little ones of thy flock have not been cared for as they ought. Put it into the hearts of thy servants to expound unto them the way of God more perfectly—not merely in the school but also from the pulpit.

X.

THERE be many, Lord, who say, like Pilate, What is truth ? but will not come to thee to learn the way. Thou hast in mercy taught us that thy word is truth. Grant, we beseech thee, that the light of thy truth may ever shine on our land, and that multitudes may rejoice in it as the truth of their salvation.

Preserve us, we entreat thee, from the bondage of Rome ; that anti-christian power which shuts up thy word, and gives to the people lying traditions instead thereof. We pray thee also, O Lord, to release our fellow-sinners, especially our fellow-countrymen, from all idolatry and superstition, that they may worship thee only, the true God, who hast declared that thou art a jealous God, and wilt not give thy glory to another.

Lord, we rejoice in the name of Protestants, and believe that it is right so to do. But we pray thee to keep us ever mindful that our hearts may yet be far from thee. Make us desirous of being true Christians, and then our Protestantism will be scriptural and pleasing in thy sight.

Enlighten, O Lord, all those who are satisfied with protesting against the political tyranny of Popery, without caring for its far more dangerous character as the enslaver of the soul. Preserve our land, if it please thee, from the evil effects of a mistaken liberality. When we know that what we oppose is anti-scriptural, may we feel that it is sinful to conciliate the enemies of thy truth. While we would yield them all the freedom that can be safely bestowed, may we remember that, to those who would bring us into bondage, we may give place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel may continue with us.

In lands not so highly favoured as England, the real character of Antichrist is seen, as the enslaver of the bodies, and the destroyer of the souls, of men. Grant, we beseech thee, that as Popery boasts of being always the same, so our scriptural protest may remain unchanged.

XI.

WE supplicate thy mercy, O Lord, on behalf of the Church of our nation. Pour down thy Spirit upon her Bishops, that they may take heed unto themselves and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers, that they may diligently preach thy word, and duly administer the godly discipline thereof; not as lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock, to the edifying of thy Church, and to the honour, praise, and glory of thy name. May they be ready with all faithful diligence to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrine contrary to thy word. May they use the authority given unto them, not to destruction, but to salvation; not to hurt, but to help. May they be shepherds, and not wolves, to thy flock; being so merciful as not to be too remiss; so ministering discipline that they forget not mercy: that when thou, the chief Shepherd, shalt appear, they may receive the never-fading crown of glory.

And we pray that they may lay their hands suddenly on no man; but faithfully and wisely

make choice of fit persons to serve in the sacred ministry of thy Church. And to those who shall be ordained to any holy function, give thy grace and heavenly benediction : that both by their life and doctrine, they may set forth thy glory, and set forward the salvation of all men.

We thank thee, O God, that we have not so learned Christ, as to persecute those who differ from us ; but have been taught that it is our privilege and duty to strive for the preservation of our liberty, which we have in Christ Jesus ; and therefore do we pray, that if any ministers in our Church are endeavouring to bring in superstitious ceremonies and doctrines, our Bishops may be faithful, not merely in reproving, but in repressing the evil doers, and so preserve the people from mischievous influence.

Grant, merciful Lord, that the recent attack upon our Church and the unfaithfulness of some of its professed members, may prove a real blessing, by causing all true Protestants to cease from strife on small matters, in order that they may the more effectually resist the inroads of false doctrine.

XII.

HOLY, blessed and glorious Trinity, we praise thee for our peculiar national privileges, and pray that they may always be preserved to us, and to our children.

Thou hast in mercy given unto us an open Bible. Thy holy sabbath is more honoured in our land than elsewhere. The truth as thou hast revealed it is more fully and freely proclaimed in England than in other countries. Our constitution is more honourable to thee, and beneficial to the people, than any other in the world. Happy are the people that are in such a case : yea, blessed are the people that have the Lord for their God.

We more especially thank thee for permitting our country still to be the faithful protester against the soul-destroying errors of Romanism. O grant, Lord, that she may always remain so. Have mercy upon all Jews, Turks, infidels and heretics, and take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word ; and so fetch them home, blessed Lord, to thy

flock, that they may be saved among the remnant of the true Israelites, and be made one fold under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord.

With heartfelt gratitude, O Lord, would we remember our privileges—of which our scriptural liturgy is one of the chief. Our national Church being built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone, her members are not required to believe any thing that cannot be proved by holy scripture. Glory be to thee, O God, for this. In mercy deliver those who are spoiled after the traditions of men. May their chains be broken and their souls delivered from the snare of Satan and his emissaries.

We thank thee, O Lord, that in our public worship there is no idolatry—no bowing to pictures and images. We entreat thee, in thy loving-kindness, to keep us from spiritual idolatry—that which cannot be seen by man, but which in thy sight is great wickedness. May we worship thee in spirit and in truth.

XIII.

O THOU blessed Spirit of truth and grace, we ask thee to come among us with thy great power ; causing us to rejoice in the operation of thy hand, convincing, converting and comforting, as thou seest needful to any.

We would always desire these tokens of thy presence in our country ; but more especially in the present year, when the arrival of many foreigners to witness the wonders of human science and art, may be the means of great good or great evil.

Lord, we know that Satan is ever ready with his snares and his emissaries, particularly when there is any multitude drawn together. We therefore call upon thee to strengthen thy people, that they may resist his attacks in whatever form they are made, whether of open violence or insidious undermining of faith and morals. If any evil tendency shew itself, do thou overrule it for good to us, nationally as well as individually.

Keep us from pride and self-sufficiency. When strangers from many lands come among us to

see the works of our men of science, and the many national blessings we possess, may we render again unto thee, according to the benefit done unto us ; so that our hearts may not be lifted up, to cause thy wrath to come upon us.

We beseech thee to extend thy favour to all Societies established for the temporal or spiritual benefit of the people. May great grace rest upon them, so that they may be extensively useful this year. Put it into the hearts of thy servants to assist them by contributing freely of their bounty.

We entreat thee, O Lord, to cause such a Christian spirit to be shown by all ranks and classes in England, that visitors from other lands may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven. And when they return to their own countries, may they take with them a conviction, that thou art our Protector, and that a nation is happy and prosperous in proportion to the honour it pays to thy revealed will, and rejects the superstitions and idolatry of false religion.

XIV.

WE thank thee, O Lord, that the pure light of thy gospel shines on our land ; and that thy word is constantly read, and thy Sacraments duly administered in our Church.

When thou didst cause our national church to be reformed, our fathers were led to see the true nature of a sacrament, and to reject the corruptions of the Church of Rome.

May we, in like manner, receive baptism and the supper of the Lord as the only sacraments which Christ hath ordained ; and may we use them aright, as means of grace ; and not celebrate them with superstitious reverence, or idolatrous ceremonies.

Grant, Lord, that we may be fully persuaded in our own minds, and not be carried about with divers and strange doctrines : for there are some that trouble us, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. Suffer us not to forget, that even an apostle, writing by inspiration, says, " Though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, than that we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

Thou seest, Lord, that those who would persuade us that they are the successors of thine Apostles, have presumptuously and blasphemously brought in many doctrines, contrary to the simplicity of the gospel : and have moreover declared, that belief in those doctrines is necessary to salvation. We beseech thee, O Lord, to open the eyes of their deluded followers, that they may no longer be enslaved by these evil men ; but taking thy word to be their only guide, may receive the truth as it is in Jesus, and find joy and peace in believing.

Especially, O God, do we entreat that thou wouldest cause the worship of the mother of our Lord, to cease. May the scales fall off from the eyes of her idolaters ; that they may no longer be deceived by the sophistries of their priests, who would have them believe, that when they worship thy blessed mother, O Lord Jesus, they please thee ; and are more likely to receive what they ask her for, than if they were to make known their requests unto thee. Thou hast testified in thy word, that thou only art the way, the truth, and the life ; and that no man cometh unto the Father, but by thee.

XV.

Before the Lord's Supper.

GRACIOUS Master, be especially present with us this day, when we celebrate thy dying for us. Preserve us from erroneous thoughts respecting that feast of love. When thou didst institute it, thou saidst to thy disciples, This do in remembrance of me. May we believe that it is an outward and visible sign, of an inward and spiritual grace, ordained by thee, as a means whereby we receive the same, and a pledge to assure us thereof.

We know, O Lord, that there are many things in thy word, which we must believe, without being able fully to comprehend. We feel that there is danger in depending too much on our reason, which thou hast given to be the handmaid, and not the mistress, of revelation. We pray thee, therefore, O Lord, to guide us by thy Holy Spirit, to a right judgment in all things, that we may try things that differ, and hold fast that which is good.

If any would persuade us, that the visible signs of bread and wine, are changed into the very body and blood of our Saviour, while yet they

appear unaltered, may we stedfastly reject such superstition, and abide by the undoubted truth, as revealed in the scriptures, by which we are not required to believe that a miracle is wrought, where none is evident to our senses.

We praise thee, O Lord Jesus, that when we keep the feast, all alike partake of both the bread and the wine, according to thy commandment ; even as thy people always did, before they were spoiled by the vain traditions of an Apostate Church.

Merciful Lord, cause a great increase of those, who shall be meet partakers of these holy mysteries. May all receive them, in remembrance of thy meritorious cross and passion ; whereby alone we obtain remission of our sins, and are made partakers of the kingdom of heaven. May none neglect this duty, from a sense of unworthiness. Show them that none can be worthy, except they repent and believe in thee ; and that whosoever feels his need of salvation, is invited to come to thee, without doubting ; and then he may feed on the banquet that is spread on the Lord's table, and find it to be indeed a means of grace to his
l ; that so he may be strengthened, to fight
good fight of faith.

XVI.

After the Lord's Supper.

VOUCHSAFE us, O God, a right judgment in all things. As thou hast blessed us with great privileges, may we feel that our responsibilities are thereby increased. For unto whom much is given, of him shall be much required.

We have this day attended the ordinances of thy house. We thank thee, O Lord, that the services of the Church to which we belong are so scriptural, that even when the preacher is unfaithful, the gospel is yet constantly read to the congregation. Do thou, O Holy Spirit, make it effectual to the conviction and conversion of sinners, the comfort of weak saints, and the general edification of thy people.

Blessed Jesus, be thou especially present when we attend thee at thy table. Enable us to rejoice in communion with thee and thy saints. Preserve us from superstitious veneration of the bread and wine, which thou hast commanded to be received, as emblems of thy body broken, and thy blood shed once for all, on the cross. May

we believe that thou didst then make a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world ; so that there is no more offering for sin. Our bodily senses cannot perceive any change in the elements ; and therefore, O Lord, we believe that those are guilty who teach the people to worship, as God, what they can touch, taste, and handle, and which even perishes with the using.

And when, O Lord, we have occasion to present our children to thee in baptism, enable us to do so in a right spirit ; with a comfortable persuasion, that if we use the means of grace, with faith in thee, thou wilt give the blessing. Thou didst appoint baptism to take the place of circumcision, as the outward seal on thy members : and hast taught us by thine Apostle, that neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. Cause, therefore, we beseech thee, the renewing power of thy Spirit, to be exerted, in behalf of all our offspring, that they, being buried with thee by baptism into death, may also walk in newness of life.

THE END.

